



NEWS RELEASE

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**WASHINGTON MAN SENTENCED TO 17.5 YEARS IN FEDERAL COURT
FOR DRUG-TRAFFICKING CONSPIRACY AND POSSESSION OF FIREARMS
IN FURTHERANCE OF DRUG-TRAFFICKING**

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced that on November 26, 2007, Nicholas Blackwell, a resident of Renton, Washington, was sentenced in federal court in Anchorage to 210 months for his convictions of conspiracy in relation to controlled substance trafficking and possession of firearms in furtherance of drug-trafficking.

United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess imposed the sentence on Blackwell, age 22, of 1089 Lake Washington Blvd., North, Unit A406, Renton, Washington.

According to information presented to the court by Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White, Blackwell was the leader of a drug conspiracy that he operated from the Seattle area. Blackwell enlisted the help of co-defendants Sinoun Moth, Lamar Facine, Chase Walters and Jeffrey Sanders. While located in Seattle, Blackwell tasked the co-defendants with distributing both ecstasy and cocaine here in Anchorage. Blackwell would ship the controlled substances up to Anchorage, and the co-defendants would accept delivery and subsequently sell the drugs. The co-defendants would transfer money to Blackwell by depositing funds into various bank accounts or by compensating others who had performed work on Blackwell's vintage automobiles. Defendant Blackwell also carried various firearms, which he used to protect himself, the drugs that he was selling, and the drug profits. During the course of this investigation, law enforcement seized approximately 1800 ecstasy pills and over 2.5 kilograms of cocaine powder. Co-defendants Sinoun Moth and Chase Walters are pending sentencing. Sanders has received a sentence of 70 months, and Facine is pending trial.

Prior to imposing sentence, Judge Burgess noted the importance of deterring Blackwell and other potential defendants from criminal conduct in the future, as well as the need to protect the public. Judge Burgess also noted the seriousness of Blackwell's crimes, as they involved large amounts of controlled substances and the use of dangerous firearms, as well as Blackwell's history of violent behavior.

Mr. Cohen commended the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Safe Streets Task Force, which is staffed by the Anchorage Police Department and the FBI, for the investigation leading to the successful prosecution of Sanders. SAUSA White is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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